

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05
MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /087 W
-----100676 161616Z /43

O R 161405Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7841
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SF
SUBJECT: SOWETO QUIET OVER JUNE 16TH

1. SUMMARY: SOWETO REMAINED QUIET OVER JUNE 16TH
AS SOME RESIDENTS STAYED HOME AND POLICE PULLED BACK
FROM EARLIER HEAVY PATROLS. END SUMMARY.

2. SOWETO WAS QUIET (AS OF 3:00PM FRIDAY) AS MANY
RESIDENTS STAYED HOME TO ATTEND MEMORIAL SERVICES.
SITUATION WAS CALM AS MOURNERS FILLED REGINA MUNDI
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CHURCH AND OVERFLOWED INTO COURTYARD. POLICE KEPT
RESPECTFUL DISTANCE AND MINIMIZED DANGER OF CONFRONTA-
TION.

3. POLICE PULLED BACK EARLIER HEAVY PATROLS AND
ROAD BLOCKS AND MAINTAINED LOW PROFILE THROUGHOUT TOWN-
SHOP. TACTICS APPEAR TO BE TO AVOID CONFRONTATION BY

STATIONING ISOLATED OBSERVERS (ONE PLICE VAN WAS OBSERVED PARKED BEHIND SCREEN OF BUSHES) CONNECTED BY RADIO TO REINFORCEMENTS CERTALLY POSITIONED THROUGHOUT SOWETO.

4. COMMENT: POLICE RESTRAINT AND APPEALS FOR CALM BY BLACK LEADERS, COUPLED WITH A GENERALLY MORE RELAXED ATMOSPHERE IN SOWETO, APPEAR (SO FAR) TO HAVE WORKED IN KEEPING THE PEACE. OTHER FACTORS, SUCH AS THE GRANTING OF CIVIC STATUS THIS WEEK AND AN APPARENTLY EFFECTIVE CAMPAIGN AIMED AT DISABLING THE BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS MOVEMENT, HAS SEEMINGLY BOUGHT TIME FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE SIMPLE FACT THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE ARE WELL PREPARED FOR TROUBLE SIMPLY MAY DICTATE A MORE PRUDENT ATTITUDE FOR SOWETO'S RESIDENTS AT THIS POINT.
JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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TAGS: PINS, PINT, SF
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